

## Newsletter - Welcome

As we reach the end of another busy term, I wanted to introduce this term's newsletter by expressing my thanks to every member of our school community again for the way in which you have supported us in getting things one step back closer to normal – albeit a 'new normal'!

Despite the focus on safe operation, face masks and hand sanitiser – we are delighted that we have still managed to provide so many opportunities for students to develop their interests and skills, and to engage with the wider community. Many of these things are reported in this newsletter and as I write preparations are well advanced for a variety of other activities in the coming months such as trips to Iceland, Paris and skiing in Italy as well as theatre trips, musical productions and sporting fixtures.

Whilst the summer term will no doubt see a focus on exam preparation – starting of course with our Easter Revision School - we are also looking forward to welcoming year 6 to our 'transition week' again, the return of sports day and our annual 'Rewards' trip.

We know how important these, and the many other things that happen in and around school, are to you - we hope you enjoy reading about them as you relax over the Easter break and look forward to sharing more of our ideas for the 'new normal' over the summer.

There will no doubt be new information and guidance in response to the ongoing Covid19 situation for next term, which we will communicate to you as soon as we can, but in the meantime have a good holiday over Easter and enjoy a well-earned rest!

Pasg hapus!

Mr Gerrard  
Headteacher



## Dates for Your Diary

Last day of term - Friday 8th April 2022

Students return to school - Monday 25th April 2022

Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd May 2022

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 17th May 2022

Last day before half-term - Friday 27th May 2022

Students return to school - Monday 6th June 2022

Staff Training Day - Friday 24th June 2022

Year 7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 12th July 2022

Last day of term before summer holiday - Tuesday 19th July 2022

A level/ Level 3 BTEC Results - Thursday 18 August

GCSE/ Level 2 BTEC Results - Thursday 25th August

Staff training Days - Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2022

Students return to school - Monday 5 September 2022

To keep up to date with term times and staff training days, see the calendar on our website which covers the academic year.

## Bod Silin Memorial to Colin Jones

Colin Jones, who sadly passed away earlier this year, was a retired PE teacher from the school who loved the outdoors. Thanks to his efforts in the 1980s, the school was able to purchase Bod Silin, our very own cottage, nestled in the hills above Aber Falls and Llanfairfechan in the Snowdonia National Park.

Bod Silin provides a safe refuge for our staff and students and is used frequently for outdoor education, Forest School, Duke of Edinburgh and team building activities. It has the ability to sleep groups of 10-15 students in the two bedrooms and has extensive grounds which can be used for camping. Whilst it has no electricity or gas it does have a comforting wood burning stove that can be used in the wintertime and on chilly evenings.

As a tribute to Colin and his continuing legacy, we have commissioned a slate memorial that will be mounted on the cottage, that says:

Bod Silin

In memory of Colin Jones whose tireless efforts gave students of Ysgol Aberconwy the opportunity to enjoy this place and develop a love of the outdoors.

May he rest in peace  
1940 - 2022



## Examinations Support



We know that exams can be a stressful time and it is often difficult to know how best to support children both academically and emotionally, so on Friday 25th March we hosted a revision day for students in Year 11 followed by an after-school support and information session for their parents.

The workshops were delivered by the company Learning Performance, who have a proven track record in motivating students to achieve success. Their specialist instructors delivered a fully interactive programme that taught students new techniques and skills to help them with their revision and preparation for upcoming examinations.

The events were a great success and both students and parents had fun whilst gaining some very useful practical tips and advice.

We are also delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to attend in school revision sessions during the Easter holidays. Please have a look at the information on our [Exam Support webpage](#) to find out more and to see the schedule for the different year groups and courses. This page also includes lots of useful revision tools, links and tips.

## World Book Day

Students and staff had a wonderful time celebrating the 25th anniversary of World book day by holding a non-uniform day and a fancy-dress competition for the best media/literature characters. So far, we have collected £592 to help World Book Day raise funds for book tokens and books for children across the UK.





## Parent Survey - New Curriculum in Wales

Schools in Wales are having a new curriculum. In secondary schools this will start next September in Year 7 and will then be rolled out year on year.

To learn more about the plans for the new curriculum please visit the [Welsh Government website](https://www.gov.wales/).

We would appreciate it if you could complete the electronic form below by Friday April 29th to let us know your thoughts and ideas about the three key questions listed:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7WtGeeYKJEe8B1gF3CgWICor3sAxH1BmI9E83MUME2pUM1owSEcxMDIHQU5MSE1HRjhWMkwxTIYwTC4u>

## Crystal Stars on Sky

Back in February, a film crew came into school to record one of our year 11 students for a Sky mini documentary series called [Kidversation](#). The short film, which was shown on Sky News at the weekend and can be seen online, looks at a day in the life of a young carer and shows some of the challenges that Crystal faces caring for her family on a daily basis.

For your chance to view the film, please click on the image below.





## Alfie is Running to Success



Huge congratulations to Alfie in year 8 on his recent win in the North Wales Cross Country Championships in Wrexham, and on gaining bronze medals in the under 13's Welsh National Cross Country Championships in Pembrey and the under 15's 1500m at the Welsh Indoor Championships.

Alfie, who attends Colwyn Bay athletics club where he trains twice a week, has represented his club, the North Wales region and Wales at various events over the last year. He has experienced a lot of success during this time including winning the North Wales Cross Country League, gaining a bronze in the Welsh Outdoor championship 1500m and gold in the 800m and is ranked sixth in the U13's UK Parkrun with a time of 17:42 minutes. Alfie has also represented Wales in the London Mini Marathon and came fourteenth out of 196 boys his age from across the UK, placing him first from Wales.

We hope that Alfie continues to build on these achievements and we wish him all the best in his upcoming races.

## Human Nurture

Ysgol Aberconwy's Year 9 students attended a performance of Human Nurture in the school's Drama Studio. This hard-hitting play was performed by actors from the London based Theatre Centre. It explores the breakdown in the friendship of two young men and uncompromisingly approaches issues of racism and identity.



## Crossing the Bridge for Welsh Language Awards

Ysgol Aberconwy has started a system to challenge and award staff, that aims to promote and increase the use of Welsh amongst staff and students. There are three awards, which include challenging but attainable targets that the students from years 7-13 Cyngor Iaith (Language Council) use to monitor each department's progress.

The Cyngor Iaith would like to congratulate the following departments on their progress with the 'Croesi'r Bont i Wobr Efydd' award (Crossing the Bridge to the Bronze Award) as a part of the 'Gwobrau Iaith Adrannol' (Welsh Language Departmental Awards):



Congratulations to Mrs Karen Griffith and Mrs Beth Russell in the Art Department. They are the first department to reach half way across the bridge!

Here they are receiving their prize from Year 9 members of the Cyngor Iaith!

Congratulations to Mrs Sioned Williams, Mrs Luned Parry, Miss Elen Williams, Mrs Catrin Jones, Mr Mark Thomas and Miss Megan Elias in the Welsh Department on their progress with the 'Croesi'r Bont i Wobr Efydd' award.

Here they are receiving their prize from Year 8 members of the Cyngor Iaith.



Congratulations to Mrs Stella Edwards in Y Copa, the newly named Library, on her progress with the 'Croesi'r Bont i Wobr Efydd' award. Y Copa is half way over the bridge!

Here she is receiving her prize from Year 7 members of the Cyngor Iaith.



Congratulations also to the staff in the Design and Technology Department, who have been recently assessed and have met the targets for the award but are yet to receive their prize.



## Luke is Boxing for Wales

Congratulations to Luke in year 11 on his selection to the Welsh National Boxing team again!

He has been a member of the national squad since 2019 and travels to Cardiff every other weekend to train. He recently competed in the 71+kg category against a 5 times Irish National Champion, at the National Stadium in Dublin, the first international event to be held at the stadium in 2 years, with the event concluding in a draw between Ireland and Wales.


Luke, who has been boxing since the age of 8 out of Llandudno Amateur Boxing Club, has previously won national titles and gold medals at tournaments abroad. He has also been the National Champion on several occasions and boxed in the British Championships winning a silver medal.

We are very proud of Luke and his fantastic achievements! We wish him and the rest of the Welsh team all the best with their upcoming fixtures.





## Fundraising for the Ukraine




A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who has donated to our Ukraine Appeal so far.

Our students have been working hard organising events to raise money for the people of Ukraine. We have raised almost £2000 so far with bake and badge sales, raffles and our yellow and blue themed non-uniform day. Funds have also been raised by students participating in sponsored events.

A number of our year 13 students volunteered to take part in a sponsored bike ride that aimed to cycle the length of the Ukraine in one day, a total of 375 miles, which meant that they each had to cycle approximately 30 miles!

We also have a group of year 7 students who plan to accompany Mr Gerrard on a sponsored walk up Snowdon, weather permitting.

We will continue to raise funds through the summer too and all money raised will be donated to the UNICEF Ukraine Appeal.



We are grateful for all your support to date and hope that you will continue to support our appeal.

Parents may still donate using the School Gateway App, if they would like to.

## Stella Crotchets for Marie Curie

Well done to Mrs Stella Edwards in Y Copa for raising £52 for charity by making and selling Crochet daffodils.


She sold the daffodils to staff on Saint Davids Day and then donated the money that she raised to the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal.



Hi Stella,

We can't thank you enough for supporting this year's Great Daffodil Appeal, in what have been challenging times. Every donation and every daffodil helps Marie Curie to be there, providing vital care and emotional support to dying people and their families. We simply couldn't do that without your help.

## Learning at the Conwy Culture Centre



Year 10 and 11 students, studying GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare recently visited the Library at the Conwy Culture Centre to take out books as part of their research for their non-exam assessment (NEA) coursework. The girls located books specifically related to their own research topics to borrow. This was a new experience for some students and several had not visited a public library since primary school.

Leonie, a student in Year 11, also carried out some of her coursework activity at the centre. She taught an Information Technology (IT) class, run by Coleg Llandrillo, some computer skills including how to create a wordsearch online, an activity that she designed to encourage the maintenance of cognitive skills in older adults.

Teacher, Myfanwy Wilson said, "We are delighted to be making great links with the Culture Centre, who have been extremely accommodating and welcoming to us, enabling our students to benefit from the use of their fabulous facilities. I hope to be able to take more students there soon"





## Cable Street



Ysgol Aberconwy is participating in the National Connections scheme. This scheme offers a unique opportunity for youth theatres and schools to stage new plays written for young people.

*Cable Street*, written by Lisa Goldman, about two girls growing up in London's Jewish East end in the 1930s, was performed by students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 to captivated audiences.


A Director from the National Theatre attended one of the performances to give the company feedback on ways they can develop their work.

The performances were dedicated to the people of Ukraine and raised over £200 for UNICEF's Ukraine appeal.





## Lucian to Play Hockey for Wales



We would like to congratulate Lucian, in year 9, who has been selected to play hockey for the U16 Welsh national team.

Lucian, who has been playing hockey since he was in year 4, has been working his way through the national age group pathway and was selected to train at Regional Performance Centres from May 2021. He has been consistently chosen to represent North Wales through the age groups.

In January, Lucian was thrilled to receive the news that he was selected as goalkeeper for the U16 Wales National Age Group (NAG) after attending trials in Cardiff throughout November, December and January. He will be playing international hockey for Wales at Cardiff against the home nations and travelling further afield to France, Switzerland and Poland.

Lucian has always been passionate about the sport and is currently the goalkeeper for Clwb Hoci Eirias in the men's 2nd team in the Northwest League who are set for promotion at the end of this season.

We wish Lucian, Clwb Hoci Eirias and the U16 Welsh team all the best in their upcoming games.



## Chinese New Year

On February 1st we celebrated the Year of the Tiger.

The characteristics of this particular animal are said to be growth, development, creation and planning. So, with these qualities in mind, the Welsh Confucius Institutes provided Primary and secondary school students across Wales with a range of activities to get their teeth into! These included storytelling, Chinese arts & craft workshops and live performances.

Ysgol Aberconwy students enjoyed online recorded and live interactive sessions delivered by Chinese tutors from the Cardiff Confucius Institute that were scheduled and shown at various times throughout the day. Students were also given the opportunity to communicate with the Chinese tutors leading the live sessions using the Chat option.

Students enjoyed a variety of cultural, informative and creative sessions, which included: introduction to Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year dinner, Introduction to Chinese Zodiac culture, Chinese Arts and Crafts Workshop – Calligraphy, Chinese New Year activities, Chinese New Year customs and taboos, Chinese New Year dinner, Story-telling, Chinese Arts and Crafts Workshop - Paper cutting. Amongst the students' favourite activities were Calligraphy and paper cutting, which were delivered by our very own Miss Jie Chen.

Congratulations to the winners of the Chinese New Year competitions, they were:

### Zodiac Tiger Arts Competition

KS3 - 1st: Summer 8HC & Martha 7HM, Runners up: Scarlett 7CC & Emily 8DC

KS4 - 1st: Courtney, 11CC. Runners up: Shawna 10HC & Abbey 10DC.

### 50 Question quiz

Kate 9DC, Lottie & James 7DM

